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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,601	07/29/2005	Masaaki Fukumoto	9683/228	2770
79510 7590 12/01/2008 NTT Mobile Communications Network I/BHGL P.O. Box 10395 Chicago, IL 60610				
EXAMINER				
TRAN, TUAN A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2618				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/01/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/521,601

Applicant(s)

FUKUMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

TUAN A. TRAN

Art Unit

2618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bajikar (7,260,835) in view of Buchalter (6,637,161).

Regarding claims 1-2, Bajikar discloses a communications unit 120A (i.e. access point) (See fig. 1) comprising: a first communications means that controls communications (via LAN backbone) between the communications unit 120A and a plurality of other communications units 120B-120N connected to the communications unit 120A; and a second communications means (i.e. Bluetooth transceiver) that controls communications between the communications unit 120A and a client communications apparatus 130, wherein the communications units 120A-120N are installed strategically and interconnected to form a communication network that serves the client communications apparatus 130 (See fig. 1 and col. 4 lines 5-31). However, Bajikar does not explicitly mention that the communications units are installed in a mapped unitary flooring of a construction (unitary partition panel of a construction). Since the technique of installing communications units (i.e. access points) in a mapped unitary flooring of a construction (unitary partition panel) is known in the art as taught by Buchalter (See fig. 1 and col. 2 line 27 to col. 3 line 18); therefore, it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teaching of Buchalter in installing the communications units in a mapped unitary flooring of a construction for the advantage of providing flexibilities in locating communications access point to suit a work environment as well as to allow convenient access to voice/data communications to users.

Regarding claim 3, Bajikar & Buchalter disclose as cited in claim 1. Bajikar further discloses the communications unit comprises storage means that stores location information indicating a location where the communications unit is located, wherein the second communications means transmits location information stored in the storage means to the client communications apparatus (See col. 7 lines 28-51).

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- USPAT (6,249,671; 6,988,989; 6,008,923; 5,907,544; 5,724,346).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claims 4-18, Bajikar & Buchalter disclose as cited in claim 1. However, they fail to disclose limitations specified in claims 4-18.

Claims 19-22 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 19-21, Bajikar & Buchalter disclose as cited in claim 1. However, they fail to teach detection means that detect the network topology of said communications network; and notification means that notify the user of said management apparatus of information indicating the connection status of said plurality of communications units, based on the network topology detected by said detection means as disclosed in the Specification, figure 11, paragraphs [0085-0098].

Regarding claim 22, Bajikar & Buchalter disclose as cited in claim 1. However, they fail to teach detection means that detect the network topology of said communications network; acquisition means that acquire information indicating the size, the form, and connection locations of said plurality of communications units; location detection means that acquire the locations of at least one of said plurality of communications units, based on reference point information stored in said storage means, the network topology detected by said detection means, and information acquired by said acquisition means; and transmission means that transmit to said communications unit location information acquired by said location detection means as disclosed in the Specification, figure 11, paragraphs [0085-0098].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN A. TRAN whose telephone number is (571)272-7858. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 10:00AM-6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Anderson can be reached on (571) 272-4177. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tuan A Tran/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2618

